

Welcome!

Thank you for taking the time to read the first issue of Paradox® Tech. This newsletter is designed to give users a forum for making suggestions about Paradox and to promote the services you have to offer. It also gives you the opportunity to share your Paradox knowledge with other users. Please feel free to submit your topics, comments and/or suggestions for the edition. Your ideas will help make this Paradox community newsletter a success.

NOTE: this newsletter is based on the submissions of users and developers. If you choose to try the examples or suggestions that are included, you are doing so at your own risk.

Thank you to all the people who have assisted in producing this newsletter.

Keith Trottier
Editor, Paradox Tech

If you're interested in submitting suggestions or comments, or wish to be included on the distribution list, please e-mail keitht@corel.com.

Please note: the information contained in your message, including feedback data such as questions, comments, suggestions or the like, shall be deemed non-confidential without limitation and Corel shall have no obligation of any kind with respect to such information and shall be free to reproduce, use, disclose and distribute such information to others without limitation. Further, Corel shall be free to use any ideas, concepts, know-how or techniques contained in such information for any purpose whatsoever, including, but not limited to, developing, manufacturing and marketing products which incorporate such information.



Product Manager's Message

I'm delighted to be able to contribute to the first edition of the Paradox® Tech newsletter. I'm sure this will become a valuable resource for all Paradox users, from beginners to experts alike.

Corel's Paradox team is very excited about the release of WordPerfect® Office 2000 for Linux® – Deluxe Edition, which includes Paradox® 9 for Linux. We're happy to be able to offer the best desktop database solution for both the Windows® and Linux platforms. Paradox 9 for Linux offers the same functionality that you're used to with the Windows version, letting you get right to work on producing multi-platform solutions.

We're also hard at work gathering your ideas and suggestions for Paradox 10 which, with your help, should be the best Paradox ever.

I would like to express my congratulations and thanks to Keith Trottier for starting this newsletter. Having worked in technical support for Paradox for some time, I'm well aware of the importance of providing timely and up-to-date information to our customers, as well as offering a forum for sharing tips and techniques.

If you have any questions or comments that I can answer, please feel free to e-mail me at dana@corel.com.

Dan Alder
Product Development Manager, Paradox
Corel Corporation



CTech Alcove

Corel's CTech Program

CTech is a technical support program driven almost exclusively by Corel volunteers. Based in various locations worldwide, CTech volunteers use their training and experience to monitor the Corel newsgroups and lend expert and friendly advice.

CTech volunteers dealing with Paradox® issues:

Brian Bushay City: Minneapolis State: Minnesota Country: United States	Steve Caple City: Sacramento State: California Country: United States	Steve Green City: Waldorf State: Maryland Country: United States
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Michael Irwin City: Mount Holly State: New Jersey Country: United States	Bertil Isberg City: Stockholm Country: Sweden	John Moore City: Bonsall State: California Country: United States
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Bill Todd
City: Chandler
State: Arizona
Country: United States

A special thanks to the CTech members for their outstanding work (from a satisfied Paradox user and fan of the CTech/newsgroup program):

Thanks in large part to the members of the CTech program, I have decided to continue using Paradox as my desktop database of choice. A few months ago, I had decided to abandon Paradox since it seemed to be a marginal product that was rapidly losing market visibility and consumer confidence. The one thing that kept me tied to the product was the power and structure of the ObjectPAL language. Although I find the initial UI of MS Access superior to Paradox, I vastly dislike its programming paradigm.

However, since I've discovered the Corel-sponsored newsgroups, I have learned an incredible amount and have been able to leverage that knowledge directly into my consulting business. The majority of my new knowledge can be attributed to the ongoing responses of the CTechs; not only do they provide answers to questions, but they also frequently supply background knowledge and code samples, which have proven to be invaluable learning aids. Judging from the feedback I see in the newsgroups, I am not alone. With Corel's continued support of the CTech program, I believe that you will create a very strong backbone of incredibly knowledgeable developers. Although I typically deploy MS Office at my various contracts, if Corel can provide an extremely tight and comprehensive integration with Paradox, Delphi and Interbase, I would instantly turn toward using Corel Office instead.



Food for thought: The only reason I own the Visual Studio Enterprise Edition is because I could afford to purchase it using MS's NFR program. I very much prefer the C++Builder Enterprise Suite (I have v1.0), but I cannot afford to fork over more than \$2,000/year for the upgrades. Since I have the MS development tools, it is only natural that I would want to integrate with their other products, especially MS Office. If you could make the Corel development tools sufficiently inexpensive and combine that with superior integration with your office suite and other packages, you could create a groundswell of developers who would naturally recommend using Corel products over the competition since they could easily provide a better solution using the tools they already own.

Thanks to you and the CTechs for your continued support.

Paradox Newsgroups

Developer Support

Paradox Developer Support –
<news://cnews.corel.ca/coreldevelopers.paradox>

Paradox – OPAL Programming –
news://cnews.corel.ca/coreldevelopers.paradox_opal

Corel® Paradox® 8 – Web Programming –
news://cnews.corel.com/coreldevelopers.paradox_web

Technical Support

Paradox FAQs – <news://cnews.corel.ca/corelsupport.faqs.paradox>

Corel Paradox – DOS Versions –
news://cnews.corel.ca/corelsupport.paradox_dos

Corel Paradox – Other Windows® Versions –
news://cnews.corel.ca/corelsupport.paradox_win_other_versions

Corel Paradox 8 – <news://cnews.corel.ca/corelsupport.paradox8>

Paradox 9 – <news://cnews.corel.ca/corelsupport.paradox9>

Paradox 9 for Linux® –
<news://cnews.corel.ca/corelsupport.linux.office2000.paradox>



Tech Tips

Tips, Tricks & Code

Shortcut Keys

To open the Project Viewer:
Press ALT + T, P

To delete a record while in a database:
Press CTRL + DELETE

To delete a block of records while in a database:
1. Hold SHIFT and select the Records to delete using the Arrow keys
2. Press DELETE

To find a record in a database:
Press CTRL + Z

To duplicate the previous field value:
Press CTRL + D

Coding Tips

NOTE: you are trying these tips at your own risk. These tips have not been tested by Corel and are submitted by individuals as helpful hints.

Here's a suggestion on how to manipulate objects on a form dynamically using their properties:

Submitted by: Darrell MacKey

Created by: Darrell MacKey

To try the example below, you'll need to create a new form. Add a push button, text field and an ellipse. Label the text field "ResultText". Label the Ellipse object "Ellipse1". Now copy the code below to the pushbutton method. Check your syntax and run the form.

method pushButton(var eventInfo Event)

var

 p **point**

endvar

p = Ellipse1.size

Ellipse1.color = RED

ResultText.value = "Ellipse changed to color: Red"

Sleep(500)

Ellipse1.Pattern.Style = ThickVerticalLinesPattern

ResultText.value = "Ellipse changed to Pattern: Thick Vertical Lines Pattern"

sleep(500)

msgInfo("Beginner Code", "Resting to default values.")

Ellipse1.color = TRANSPARENT

ResultText.value = "Ellipse changed to color: Transparent"

Sleep(500)

Ellipse1.Pattern.Style = EmptyPattern

ResultText.value = "Ellipse changed to Pattern: Empty Pattern"



```
Sleep(500)
ResultText.value = "Ellipse has been set back to the default
properties."
endMethod
```

Here's a quick way to validate a date field in a table frame:

Submitted by: Darrell MacKey
 Created by: Mike Prestwood
 Validation on a record level. This code is placed on the Record level, canDepart event of the Sale Date field. If the "Sale Date" is set to a date after today, then that record should turn yellow and an error message should appear.

```
method canDepart(var eventInfo MoveEvent)
if Sale_Date > today() then
    eventInfo.setErrorCode(CanNotDepart)
    self.color = yellow
    msgStop("Invalid Date!", "Sale date is invalid.")
    self.color = transparent
    moveTo(Sale_Date)
endIf
endMethod
```

Here's a fix for the MRO append problem in Corel® Paradox® 8:

Submitted by: Russ Carmichel
 Created by: Bruce Brunk
 The following four lines, when attached to the action method of the record inside the multi-record object, seem to patch this bug:

```
if eventInfo.id() = DataNextRecord and isEdit() then
    endEdit()
    edit()
endIf
```

Bruce R. Brunk
 Yobel Development

Here's some useful code for "Canceling" during a long process:

Submitted by: Russ Carmichel
 Created by: Russ Carmichel
 In this case, I'm printing bills and want to give the user the option to click on a "Cancel" button. The form is opened and a form-level method, "PrintTheBills()", is called from the calling form. PrintTheBills does some initial set-up, and then sets a timer on a hidden button. The hidden button gets control and steps through the bills, printing each one. After each bill is printed, the timer resets itself for a 500 Ms delay, which allows the "Cancel" button to be clicked. Sleep() does NOT work in this situation since control is not given back to the Windows interface. Timer allows mouse-clicks elsewhere.



method PrintTheBills()

```
;//This is called FROM THE CALLING FORM
```

```
; and is the main process for this screen
```

```
var
```

```
    tcCases, tcBDetail      tcursor
    f                       form
    wret                    logical
```

```
endvar
```

```
InfoNameBox = "Retrieving your Bill Prototype . . ."
```

```
FindPrototype() ; get Bill proto for this UserId
```

```
; <snip>
```

```
CancelButtonPushed = False ; set initial CancelButton state
```

```
; open WP as OLE server
```

```
InfoNameBox = "Preparing WordPerfect . . ."
```

```
SetMouseShape(MouseWait)
```

```
message("Waiting for WP . . .")
```

```
; <snip>
```

```
show()
```

```
SendToPrinter = "Yes"
```

```
SendToPrinter = msgQuestion("Report Destination", "Do you  
want the report to
```

```
go "+ "directly to the printer?")
```

```
if SendToPrinter = "Yes" then
```

```
    MenuAction(MenuFilePrinterSetup)
```

```
endif
```

```
TimerBtn.setTimer(500, False)
```

```
; print successive bills with a
```

```
; 500 msec delay between so users can
```

```
; press "Cancel"; do NOT repeat unless timer resets
```

```
endMethod
```

```
*****
```

Here's the code for the TimerBtn (a hidden button):

method timer(var eventInfo TimerEvent)

```
var
```

```
    ws      anytype
```

```
endvar
```

```
; <snip>
```

```
InfoActionBox = "Loading Billing Data"
```

```
BuildBillArray() ; load DA with bill data
```

```
InfoActionBox = "Printing from WordPerfect"
```

```
PrintWPBill() ; Print with WP
```

```
; <snip>
```

```
if CancelButtonPushed = True then
```

```
    ws = "No"
```

```
    ws = msgQuestion("Cancel?", "Cancel remaining  
Billing?")
```

```
    if ws = "Yes" then
```

```
        formreturn() ; done by Cancelling
```

```
    else CancelButtonPushed = False
```

```
        CancellingText = " "
```

```
    endif
```



```
endif
if CBCases.action(DataNextRecord) then
    self.setTimer(500,False) ; allows user to click
Cancel
else
    formreturn() ; end of billing
endif
endMethod
```

Here's the code for the Cancel Printing button:

```
method pushButton(var eventInfo Event)
CancelButtonPushed = True
CancellingText = "Cancelling. BE PATIENT!"
endMethod
```

This Issue's Topic

Adding Your Own Experts to the Paradox List

Please note: this section deals with adding or modifying a registry setting and is done at your own risk. You should be comfortable navigating around the Windows® registry before attempting the procedure below.

After launching the registry editor and scrolling to the following registry key:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER, Software, Corel, Paradox, 9.0, Experts, 09, Document

Notice that all the experts that are used by Paradox are here.

1. Create a new key and give it any name you'd like.
2. Below the newly created key, create four string values with the following names and values:

Description	"Describe the expert you are adding here"
File Name	"Assign the path to the FDL or FSL file that you have created"
Icon	"Assign the path to the BMP file that you wish to assign to the icon"
Name	"Give your new expert a name"
3. After creating the four string values and adding values to them, close the registry and launch Paradox 9.
4. In Paradox, click Tools | Experts. Your newly created expert is displayed there.



Paradox® DOS Tips

Submitted by Steve Green

I'd like to discuss several issues that have received great attention on the newsgroups and among Paradox® for DOS developers recently—date field groupings in reports, the FORMAT () function as it applies to date fields, and long filenames.

Date Field Groups in Reports – There is a long-standing problem in the Paradox for DOS report generator that was finally noticed over the past few months. One of the “group” options is “Range”. For an alpha field, “Range” is the number of characters from the beginning of the string, but a date field gives you the ordinarily wonderful “Week”, “Month” and “Year” options when you select “Range”.

When you select “Range=Month” and some of the dates in your data are in November, 1999, each day in November makes its own group. When you select “Range=Month” and some of the dates in your data are in December 1999, the December group sorts as the first month of the 1999 year. Trivial annoyances, if you ask me <g>.

The work-around, as we've been telling people all along, is to have a “sort” or “group” field to group by, instead of the actual dates. This can be accomplished in a number of ways. A relatively simple, “down-and-dirty” approach would be to add two fields to your report table, [Year] and [Month]. Run a quick SCAN like this:

```
SCAN
    [Year] = YEAR([date field])
    [Month] = MONTH([date field])
ENDSCAN
```

You can now group in the report on the [Year] and [Month] fields. Each field is a number field, and therefore there isn't too much trickery to this.

FORMAT () Date Display Quirks – Paradox for DOS allows for a wide range of date-field displays using the FORMAT () function. Some of them are totally “Y2K-compliant” and some of them aren't. For example, those of you who have routinely worked with “turn-of-the-century” birth dates in nursing home or cemetery contexts are familiar with the way that Paradox for DOS displays dates between 1900 and 1909 by dropping the “zero” from the year. March 18, 1909 displays as 3/18/9, not 3/18/09.

FORMAT (“D11”) and FORMAT (“D12”) take that concept to a new level of disaster. Each of these format options starts with the “yy” part of the date. Each of these format options will start the display for March 18, 1909 as “ 9” (note the leading space instead of the leading zero). Each of these format options also displays March 18, 2009 in the exact same way. You have a string that reconverts to a DATEVAL () of “Error” because Paradox for DOS doesn't recognize a leading “space” when it converts a string to a date and you can't parse the



pieces back into a date because that particular string can actually be two different dates.

Long Filenames – You might be surprised to know that Paradox for DOS *does* allow you to work with long filenames, as long as you understand its limited capabilities.

If you simply want to move down the trail through long-name directories or files, they will display for you in the DOS “Progra~1” manner. You can freely select from these directories and files. In Paradox for DOS 4.5, with its full directory tree displayed, it is actually rather easy to do. In any other Paradox for DOS version, it can be much more difficult to find the desired file because you have to know the “Progra~1” naming equivalent and type it in yourself.

Here’s the interesting part of the story. Let’s talk about your .net file, especially if you have the newer BDE on your machine and you want to use Paradox for DOS concurrently with Paradox for Windows® or Delphi™. If you go into nupdate.exe and set your .net file path with a long filename, it *will* work.

If you only use that path within Paradox for DOS apps, you will not have any problems due to the long filename path itself. However, as soon as you try to co-exist with a BDE app using the same data directories, you’re dead in the water. Somewhere in the Paradox for DOS internal systems, where it handles locking, it tries to compare its own path string of “Progra~1” with the string “Program Files” that it received from the BDE. You then get the “directory is controlled by a different .net file” message.



Developer Spotlight

Vladimir Menkin graduated from the Moscow Chemical Technological College as a radiation chemist. After graduation, he worked in a research institute where he gradually changed his profile from a chemist to a programmer and wrote software on Turbo Pascal. Vladimir began creating databases using Paradox® 3.5, and Paradox has since become his main instrument. He is currently the chief of the IT department at a large Russian trade company.

Vladimir currently offers several tools on his Web site, some of which are ProView, ProDoc, Calculator DLL.

Vladimir's inspiration for creating ProView is as follows:

"The idea behind writing ProView was because of the long delays in the original ProView in changing a directory to a network and by the fact that I like PV in Paradox 5 more than in later versions (especially presence of :PRIV: files). When I started to program it, I added some features that were desirable to me, but just after publishing the first version of ProView (thanks to Russ Carmichel, who provided me a WEB space for the first publishing), I received a lot of suggestions (my brains worked too <g>). I recognized that some of them were practical and gradually ProView was transformed into the current version. Special thanks to Michael Irwin who gave me very useful ideas."

Vladimir Menkin

ProView never causes irritating delays while changing to a network directory. Additionally, it shows private directory content in a separate list, uses incremental search and offers a lot more capabilities than the standard Project Viewer. ProView supports custom plugins. During its first startup, ProView automatically adds itself to the standard Paradox menu in the Tools section and copies itself in the VMsoft subdirectory of the Windows® program files directory. If you obtain an updated copy of ProView, simply start it and the automatic update will proceed.

Thank you Vladimir for allowing us to feature you in Paradox Tech. We will be looking forward to hearing from you in the future. Download ProView today from <http://sheep.east.ru:8100/~menkin/default.html> to see if it will make your life a little easier.

To recommend a developer for the next Developer Spotlight, please e-mail davidp@corel.com.



Paradox® Add-Ins

Paradox® for Windows® Files:

www.worldwidemart.com/mattw/software/Windows3.X/pdowin/

Stefan Dodingh's Projects:

www.algonet.se/~synchron/pheaven/www/area44.htm

Paradox TrueType® Bar Code Fonts: www.ciax.com/index.htm

Paradox and Delphi™ Components: www.xs4all.nl/~dgb/delcom.html

Paradox Tool Producers with Web Pages:

www.emsps.com/lists/pdxutil.htm

D. Lawton Associates – Business Solutions: www.dlawton.com

FMS Paradox for Windows Products:

www.fmsinc.com/paradox/pdxwin.htm

LVDI's DataBind Component: www.lvdisoft.com

Woll2Woll Software: www.woll2woll.com

SimpleRegistry Control – The simple way to access the Win32

Registry: www.4developers.com

ProView (Profiled This Month):

<http://sheep.east.ru:8100/~menkin/paradox.html>

**If you'd like to add your Web site to our list of Paradox Add-Ins,
please e-mail keitht@corel.com.**



Third-Party Tools Available Now!

<http://www.corel.com/paradox9/thirdparty.htm>

Windows Community Tools:

Paradox Workbench is an add-on suite of tools for the 32-bit version of Corel® Paradox® and is geared towards speeding up the development of business database applications. This tool suite installs right into the Tools menu in Paradox, giving you easy access to over 50 options. You can add spell checking to all your applications. devSpell is a 32-bit Windows® DLL, which allows you to add spell checking to the applications you develop. Best of all, this spell checker is royalty free! **By Prestwood Software & Consulting**

The **PeerDirect** Replication Engine is a true “drop-in” solution, allowing you to replicate and synchronize your data in the shortest possible time. Replicate only your Paradox databases or replicate Paradox with any other database you wish. **By PeerDirect Replication Engine**

JRun™ is the industry-leading tool for deploying server-side Java™. JRun is an easy-to-use Web server plug-in that allows you to deploy Java Servlets and JavaServer Pages™. Servlets form the foundation for sophisticated server-side application development. Java Servlets are platform independent, easy to develop, fast to deploy and cost-effective to maintain. **By Live Software**

ChimneySweep is an automatic, script-driven product that will reduce most table maintenance and repair tasks in Paradox 9 to a double-click of the mouse. ChimneySweep can recover lost records, verify and rebuild out-of-date indexes, pack tables to reduce their size and more, at least 25 times faster than other tools. The easy-to-use Job Editor wizard allows the set-up of complete repair jobs that are easy to run. **By Sundial Services**

VLO lets you add document assembly and management, scanning, imaging, file management, contact management and more to Corel® WordPerfect® Suite 8 Professional or Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 – Legal Edition with Dragon NaturallySpeaking™. Although designed specifically for legal offices, any office that maintains paper files can benefit. **By Vprime**

Security Guard is a tool for Paradox developers and users who want to manage table and field level security without giving users actual table and field level passwords. This management improves security and eliminates the need to restructure tables to modify system security. Security Guard can be used with both interactive Paradox sessions or can be built in to your applications. Security Guard is currently available for Paradox versions 5 to 9 objects. **By Resource Development Associates**

ProView: Having trouble with the Project Viewer in Paradox 9? Here's a free replacement called ProView. During its first startup, ProView automatically adds itself to the standard Paradox menu in the



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www.corel.com

Tools section and copies itself in the Windows directory. If you obtain an updated copy of ProView, simply start it and an automatic update will proceed. ProView never causes irritating delays while changing directory to a network directory. Additionally, it shows private directory content in a separate list, uses incremental search and offers more right-click menu items than the standard Project Viewer.

By Vladimir Menkin

This utility can be downloaded from the following URL:
<http://sheep.east.ru:8100/~menkin/paradox.html>

DOS Community Tools:

Diamond Software Group has a download page on their Web site with a number of “must have” Paradox for DOS tools and reference works, including:

Lessspace.zip – allows Paradox for DOS, and many other older DOS programs, to function on drives larger than what the program itself was designed to handle

Remlock.zip – allows users to search specified drives and remove .net and .lck files automatically

Tdr.zip – the Table Doctor performs “damaged table” diagnostics on Paradox tables much more reliably than the TUtility Verify option

Pxwiz.zip and Wisdom.zip – each file contains a considerable amount of archived information about Paradox for DOS errors, tricks and traps, and more

To download the above files, please visit <http://www.diamondsg.com>

Coming Soon . . . Linux® Community Tools!

**If you'd like to contribute third-party tools for Paradox 9,
please e-mail partners@corel.com.**



Developer Listing

Developer's Corner

If you need assistance from a Paradox® developer, please consult the list below. All listed members are part of the Corel Solution Partners program. Paradox Approved Partners make a significant contribution to the development of solutions which support Paradox. They are active participants in our database developer community and share in the ongoing evolution of our database solutions.

Our Platinum Approved Partners are consultants, corporate developers, and ISDs that bring you an advanced collection of skills in the development of solutions for your Corel products. They are also in close contact with our in-house developers, Quality Assurance specialists and engineers, and can produce solutions that are designed with current and future software development trends.

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Contacting Corel

Technical Support

Corel is no longer offering telephone support for Corel® Paradox® versions below 7 (there is still phone support for Corel Paradox 7/32-bit, 8 and 9). Corel policy stipulates that we support the current version plus two (2) previous versions.

Classic Support – U.S.: 1-716-871-2325

Canada: 1-613-274-0500

Classic support is limited to installation issues only. For questions concerning non-programming issues, including menu commands, forms, reports, queries, product features and aspects of the user interface, please refer to Pay-As-You-Go Support. Classic support is available on a toll line, begins on the day of your first technical support call and ends 30 days later.

Priority Support Per Incident: 1-877-662-6735

Pay As You Go: 1-900-555-1006

Customer Service (North America Only):

Call us at 1-800-772-6735; our hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), Monday through Friday, and from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. EST on Saturday.

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